

CHAPTER NO. 179

SENATE BILL NO. 1927

By Crutchfield, Dixon

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2054

By McMillan, Towns

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 115, relative to the regulation of "toughman"/"badman" and of professional and amateur boxing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-115-101, is amended by deleting the text of the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) An amateur may not take part in a boxing contest unless such amateur is registered with the United States Amateur Boxing Federation or some other amateur organization recognized by the commissioner. The promoting, conducting, or maintaining of boxing matches, contests, or exhibitions when conducted by educational institutions, extracurricular organizations recognized by a college or university, such as a fraternity, sorority or student union, law enforcement organizations, Tennessee National Guard units, or amateur athletic organizations duly recognized by the commissioner are exempt from the licensing and bonding provisions of this chapter if none of the participants in such contests or exhibitions receives a money remuneration, purse, or prize for performance or service in such contest.

(b) For the purposes of this chapter, an "amateur boxing match or exhibition" means an organized match or exhibition where no prize or purse whatsoever is offered to the participants, other than a small token such as a medal, trophy, or item of clothing, representing a symbol of participation or of one's performance. Elimination-style matches or exhibitions featuring an invitation to fight in later matches or exhibitions that offer remuneration to the winner or winners of said later matches or exhibitions constitute professional matches or exhibitions.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-115-201, is amended by deleting the text of the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) Boxing, sparring, and wrestling matches or exhibitions are hereby authorized; provided, that no professional boxing or sparring match or exhibition shall be held within this state except in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(b) As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Boxing" includes kickboxing, a form of boxing in which blows are delivered with the hand and any part of the leg below the hip, including the foot;

(2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance or the commissioner's authorized representative; and

(3) "Professional boxing, sparring, or wrestling match or exhibition" means any such match or exhibition where the contestants receive or compete for any form of purse, whether as a prize for winning the contest at hand or held out as the potential prize for winning later events that the contestants compete for invitations to, and the spectators are charged admission to view such match or exhibition live or by closed circuit television. "Professional boxing, sparring, or wrestling match or exhibition" does not include any amateur athletic match or exhibition where coaches and participants receive compensation for reasonable expenses incurred by them in connection with their participation, nor do trophies, medals, shirts, jackets, or other symbols of participation constitute compensation within the meaning of this section.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-115-203, is amended by deleting the text of subsection (a) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) It is the duty of any person, firm, or corporation conducting a professional boxing or sparring match or exhibition to cause the contestants to be examined by a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state not more than forty-eight (48) hours prior to such match or exhibition. The Commissioner or his/her representative may also authorize his or her own medical examination and/or a urinalysis at any time before or immediately following the fight at his or her discretion, with the exam or urinalysis to be performed by physicians of his or her choosing. The examination shall include weight, temperature, pulse sitting, pulse standing, lungs, heart, blood pressure, sexually transmitted disease, infectious eye or skin diseases, scrotal evidence of hernia, general physical condition, and any other tests deemed advisable by the physician.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-115-211(a), is amended by deleting the following language:

All professional boxing and sparring matches or exhibitions held in this state shall be sponsored by a patriotic organization chartered by authority of a special act of Congress of the United States and none other.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-115-211(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "and the patriotic organizations which sponsored each event shall be indicated" and substituting instead "and any sponsors of each event shall be indicated".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-115-211(e), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and renumbering the remaining subsection accordingly.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-115-401, is amended by deleting the text of the section in its entirety, and substituting instead the following:

(a)(1) "Toughman" or "badman" matches, as described in this part, are lawful in this state.

(2) No toughman or badman match, competition or tournament shall be held within this state except in accordance with the provisions of this part.


(b) Such competition includes any contest or exhibition wherein persons with no professional wrestling or boxing experience engage for either prize

money or for further opportunities to engage for prizes or purses in a tournament using either a single style of fighting or a combination of multiple fighting styles in any given fight, with the entire tournament lasting over a period of one (1) or two (2) nights. Such skills may include, but are not limited to, boxing, wrestling, kicking, or martial arts skills.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect immediately upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 8, 2003


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 22nd day of May 2003


PHIL BREDEZEN, GOVERNOR